

**Mecklenburg County**  
**Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Regular Meeting**  
**August 20<sup>th</sup> ,2020**

**Members Present:** Ashley Murrell, Tomika Moore, Sonya Harper, Kendra King, Kevin Poirier, Russell Price, Lt. Gene Lim, Leigh Altman, Brittney Bogues, Denise Steele-Campbell, Janelle Fleck, Dr. Cotrane Penn, Jason Tryon, Heather Taraska, Dr. Keith Cradle, Wanda Douglas, Phyllis Barnette, Tysha Shaw

**Staff Present:** Scott Stoker, Elizabeth Swann

**Guests Present:** Shavonda McClure-Tresports, Darryl Bego- YDI Inc., Alma Moore-DASH Connection, Angela Reid- DASH Connections ,Cara Evans-Patterson-CMPD Youth Diversion, Glenn Smith-Life Connections-DASH, Becky Smith-Thompson Child & Family Focus, Quentin Snead-DASH, Lucille Puckett, Becky Thompson- Thompson Child & Family Focus, Amber Watlington-CMPD Diversion, Travis Irving-CMPD Diversion, Darryl Sturdivant-Team Up Connections, LaShawn Barnes- Child & Family Focus, Ravon Barnes-Child & Family Services, Amber Wathington-CMPD Youth Diversion,

*Members Absent:* Commissioner Pat Cotham, Jessica Davis,

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m. by the Chair Kevin Poirier.

**Review and Approval of August 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 Agenda:**

Kevin allowed council members to review the agenda. Kendra King moved to accept the agenda. Denise Steele-Campbell seconded. The council unanimously approved the agenda.

**Review and Approval of May 21<sup>st</sup> Minutes**

Kevin allowed council members to review the minutes. Heather Taraska moved to accept the minutes with the amendment to Tysha Shaw's attendance on May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Lt. Gene Lim seconded. The council approved the minutes.

**Welcome**

JCPC Chair Kevin Poirier took attendance by having the council members say present in order to keep an attendance log for meeting being virtual. Quorum was established.

**Announcements / Reminders**

The attendance requirement is now 65% of all regularly scheduled committee meetings.

The inclusion of special and assigned subcommittee meetings is no longer applicable, its 65% of all regularly scheduled meetings. There are no excused absences. Members cannot miss three consecutive regularly scheduled committee meetings. To have action in the subcommittee meetings there must be a quorum to be able to vote.

**Conflict of Interest Forms**

Forms are to be signed and returned for JCPC Chair's signature

**Budget Revision – Youth Development Initiative**

Kevin allowed council members to review the YDI budget revision which was submitted today.

YDI is removing the bookkeeper line item # 120, because they are going with an accounting service to handle their fiscal management affairs, \$780 is being taken and put into line item #190.

And the other part, we're moving the rest under program manager and this is just simply to normalize the pay rates & scales that have been the same for the last 4 years, no one is getting a bonus.

Mr. Bego stated to Kevin he just sent an email earlier regarding a budget revision for the Vocational program.

Kevin asked for a vote from the council members to approve the budget revision for Youth Development Initiatives, a 13-count vote was taken and the JCPC council approve the budget revision for YDI.

Mr. Bego from YDI inquired about the budget revision for the Vocational program, which was not sent for the JCPC Chair to place on the current agenda. Kevin asked Scott Stoker from NCDPS if that is something that he can handle or would it require a JCPC member vote, Scott stated he can handle the line item adjustment since it is a Level II program.

**Program Update Process Moving Forward-** *Tracking Sheet provided via email to council members*

Kevin asked programs for a current update, the tracking sheet rpt ran on August 13<sup>th</sup>, some programs may have higher numbers than what will be reported. The sheet has the following categories: # to serve; # served YTD; JCC (Juvenile Court Counselor) referrals; # admitted YTD and demographic breakdown for each program.

**SHIFT-** we've sort of leap writing into adjusting as the state and local levels adjusted to different needs, we've been engaged with young people throughout the course of our existence. We quickly adopted the Zoom technology, allowing to explore the audio books. We've adjusted to Cisco, WebEx and Microsoft, kids were able to go to the summer programs and engaged in activities from car washes, juvenile justice attorney sessions; knowing your rights and learning things from that standpoint. The organization has adjusted well to dealing with the pandemic. We were able to successfully terminate 16 kids through this year from July to present. We're excited about the things that this pause has allowed; we are growing deeper in our external view and incorporate upon things for improvement.

**DASH-STRENGTHENING FAMILIES-** As of today for students and families, the current number reported is 34 served year to date with 27 JCPC referrals and 3 outstanding. We currently have 7 waiting for admittance and 18 slated to graduate on September 19<sup>th</sup> for this quarter, as far as how we're doing virtually it has allowed us to be more engage with the families. We find that the families are more willing to participate due to COVID has everyone in the home, and they're looking for new strategic ways to cope and deal.

in addition to the group, I'm allowed to work with some of our internal social workers to alleviate some of those barriers that they're experiencing doing COVID. So that we will be able to link and coordinate some of those services outside. Another addition that we've added is the research, behind that we were out from families the 7 weeks, all the way out to 6 months to a year. And those are the things that we're going to track in order to help the families reduce the risk of recidivism rate. Overall, a learning curve for all of us, we've been able to effectively create new processes and engage with clients more than just their virtual platform.

**DASH MENTORING** The numbers served seems to be accurate numbers, the vocational learning community received 10 referrals from juvenile court referrals. Two were transferred from the mentoring program. We have parent support meetings, proud & pretty girls' meetings. We're having virtual meetings, and one on one virtual meetings with the mentors. Additionally, the mentors are practicing safe distancing outside with masks and talk with kids if we need to transfer information or give them information as far as supplies and take food to their homes to make sure they have the

necessities. The pandemic has caused problems for the families who need food supplies. We're trying to make sure they have what they need to matriculate throughout the school system and through the summer with some activities for the families. Those numbers are a bit off as far as the referral from court counselors. But we are moving right along with the technology and working to make sure our families have been served

**DASH VOCATIONAL-** The vocational learning community has 10 referrals from juvenile court, that should be 12, but 2 of them were not referred for juvenile court. We currently have 10 participating and we're supposed to serve 25. We have 3 instructors for GED testing who were instructors at another program at the jail years ago and one who's a retired special education teacher from New York who's moved to Charlotte. We've had virtual contact with them as far as classes are concerned. We have a software so we could work with them and provide the services virtual.

**TRESPORTS** - We operated a 5-week summer camp on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 3pm and provided transportation. The kids were picked up and brought back home. We had some self-guided college tours and field trips. They were also able to gain community service hours by participating in a summer camp program and they graduated the last week of July from summer camp.

**THOMPSON ASSESSMENTS-** The numbers that you are submitting are accurate. We admitted 10 and carried over 2 from the prior fiscal year. We're on track for what we are estimating to serve this year. We're primarily we are conducting virtual assessments and participating in remote meetings. With our budget reduction from the last JCPC funding meeting we did lose part of our staff. We had 2 full time staff members and now we have 1 ½ so it has impacted us on the day to day programming aspect. We're having to prioritize the kind of urgent and the more complicated cases whereas last year, we're able to start more kids who maybe simply lacked funding. So that has impacted us, it's unfortunate, but we're going to be working with urgent needs.

**THOMPSON RESIDENTIAL-** We are on track currently. We have 5 young men in placement, and we have to pick a placement, so we're expecting a placement forward to other guys to bring some capacity at 7. We want to make sure all the young men are plugged in to their schools. We have young men at Independence, Harding and Turning Point Academy middle school which have been on task and enrolled. They're completing their online schooling. Our staff are doing social skills with them. We have a gymnasium so we're able to have recreation time.

Thank you for that update. I don't want to speak for other council members, but it's exciting to see that that number has gotten off to a good start in serving youth in the funding process.

**YDI- FAMILY LIFE SKILLS-** Trade training and social distancing is continuous. We have (2) FLA referrals, (1) DJJ and the parent of the DJJ client and (2) Level II both are DJJ, for Vocational program there are 5, (1) DJJ, (3) parent and (1) school. We are excited and ready to take on new referrals.

**TEAM-UP CONNECTIONS-** Very proactive right now, we have 3 referrals 4 awaiting to be admitted. We have visited all the police districts in our area Hickory Grove, Independence, Eastway, in the hopes of having them transfer kids over to us that meets our services. We've spoken with all the captains; we've attended juvenile court to speak with counselors. We have completed our 109-page policy manual and we're just looking for more youth to mentor. We're having proactive meeting with counselors and attending juvenile courts.

**ASOP-BRICK-** We received our first referral today; we're excited about that process. We reached out to the court counselors and CMPD and we're just waiting to get referrals and being proactive. We've got our policies and procedures in place and we're ready to take on some clients.

**CMPD Youth Diversion-**Start programming in August, and we've had two programs completed, 15 kids per class, everybody's doing intake via Zoom. We're also doing programming. Additionally, we used to have 14 contacts with our school resource officers, but we're doing that online with our diversion staff. We're having a different topic each week and have at least 25 kids on at once, kind of sharing what they've been doing this summer and some of the ideas and thoughts that they have.

*Discussions:*

*For the programs that haven't served any youth or only a few, do you foresee being able to deliver your services in a COVID environment ?*

**ASOP BRICK-**we can serve, just awaiting referrals

**Team-Up Connections** – we have been serving kids in a different capacity, we do structured study time for young ladies who can't attend school, and parents who don't have the ability to manage the structure at home, or have the Internet services we've been using our facilities to help families there, we are still awaiting referrals from JCPC.

**Youth Development initiative-** we're using every precaution with the 5 students currently enrolled; we have a CDC regulated mist that you can spray on equipment that kills anything over a 10-minute period. We're taking temperatures every time a kid comes in and logging the information on the sign up sheet, our attendance is strong. In terms of probably our most remote learning application is our family skill building program, we just need more referrals.

*Is there anybody who is concerned that your model of service delivery won't be workable in a COVID environment again? Acknowledging that we're only a month and a half into the fiscal year?*

No comments

*How are the JCPC referrals determined as to which agency to place them with ?*

The individual court counselors based the needs of the juveniles and the assessment that they go through, they come to intake and make the determination as to what programs the youth are referred to. Referrals are down and courts are just getting back into session in June, hopefully it will pick up. Please reach out to Sonya Black, Field Service Specialist to set up a liaison with the court counselors

Scott Stoker commented there is about 16 programs for this year, and some of the contracts for 3 of those programs got signed about 3 weeks ago around the end of July. A lot of these programs are just getting started with their services.

Kevin stated in the agenda, is the final funding plan with the numbers if the council members need a reminder the amount of funding that each program received. That's a great way to compare what programs received and how many youths they served as well.

### **Program Update Process Moving Forward**

Typically, in the past we had the programs do a 5-minute presentation and questioning on a monthly basis. The JCPC Chair usually sets that agenda for the program presentation schedule, I have not set that schedule yet because I really have garnered some feedback from both programs and from council member. There's probably a more efficient way of sharing what's happening with the program and I'm in conversations with various chair people and would like to continue that conversation before I put out a schedule. I envisioned an idea of a Google form where there's a monthly update that's typed out with

attachment of images that is sent out prior to the meetings. I'm not sure having the programs on a monthly basis at different time spots is the most efficient or informative way. I would like to garner up a process for how programs will share what's happening on a monthly basis in a unique way. Any thoughts ?

#### *Discussions:*

Dr. Penn s agrees that the very brief monthly updates are probably not the most informative.

Scott will send some monthly reports that other counties use . Kevin is thinking more of the quantitative data in the presentations, but getting it in a way that it's not just one moment in time, sort of a narrative about what's happening with the programs and hopefully that will allow the JCPC council members to connect with the programs.

#### **Future Meetings**

When Governor Cooper extended the state's stay into Phase 2 that also delayed the county's re opening plan. We are still holding meetings virtually and we're waiting for the governors next announcement. We're in Phase 2 through September 11<sup>th</sup> and then we will reassess as far as the public health data. The county will remain in remote status until the end of September. For the time being, we are continuing to hold the meetings remotely and are encouraging all our advisory boards to do the same.

#### **New JCPC laws: House Bill 593: Impact on By-Laws Committee**

In July, **House Bill 593** did affect some of the new laws with JCPC. An old law stated that we had to meet every other month that's changed to 6 times a year. The membership has changed, and we can have 2 members under the age of 18yrs that law has been changed to 21yrs and under. So we could include a student from the community college or someone local. We had a hard time getting kids that were in school to attend meetings, also if you can't get a 21yr old, you can get a parent advocate in that spot. Those are the membership changes.

Currently we do an RFP annually and fund programs on a yearly basis, going forward for FY 21-22 we can go into a 2-year funding stream with programs, in September the NCDPS is supposed to give guidance to the JCPC and the counties. With that in mind, we will have to change the JCPC bylaws, the last amendment was December 17, 2015, we will have to get a Bylaws Committee together and then those bylaws will have to be approved by the county, or the county attorney If they even want to approve and allow programs to be funded for 2 years. More will be coming from the Department of Public Safety, on the recommendations on how the county and the JCPC should proceed.

Within the next month or two, we need to get the bylaws committee together and get it approved by January or before a funding decision for FY 21-22.

*Kevin asked if we change our bylaws, does that lock us into a decision to fund a program for 2 years?*

No, you will have some conversations with JCPC council and the county since they approve the funds from the state level and locally on how the language might read based on what the statute says. And we'd also raise it has to be a program that we funded before to make it two years. So you can fund a program for two years or for one year. Its good news because we wouldn't have to go through this process all the time and we can fund several programs for two or three years. So it could make things easier for the JCPC council. If you fund a program for two years, you wouldn't have to allocate that money or do an RFP which could make things possibly faster and more accurate.

Sonya Harper asked when that guidance is received from the state to make her aware, per conversation on the county side about the contracts since they are typically for one year. Kevin stated if there are members who want to be involved in the bylaws committee, currently, it's made up of Leigh Altman, Ashley Murrell and Kevin Poirier, if there are others who would like to be a part of that bylaws committee please advise. The bylaws were also amended due to COVID-19 to allow for virtual meetings.

#### **Correspondence from YDI-Darryl Bego**

Correspondence was received from Mr. Bego today which was an email with an attachment and I want to just share it with the JCPC. There's no action to complete it's an email that he sent to the Board of Directors regarding hiring his wife Michelle to work on the MEC level II vocational program. The letter lists her credentials, pay rate, etc. Kevin has spoken with DPS, Scott Stoker, and spoken with the YDI Board Chair, an executive with Prudential. He will write the letter upon returning to town, he will also a signature on a new notarized MEC conflict of interest form.

Kevin is sharing this correspondence since Mr. Bego had sent a budget revision that was approved tonight as well as the letter. The letter is attached for everyone in the agenda. There is no action around this, but due to transparency Mr. Bego wanted to share it with the JCPC Chair along with the JCPC members. The council members should be aware this correspondence has nothing to do with the budget request, they are two separate programs. Kevin checked with Scott Stoker, NCDPS and there are other programs that have funding within two persons in the same household.

YDI- this is something that came down the pipeline quickly, because we were one of those contracts that started late. We got a few referrals and we needed to move quickly, I hired my wife because she's the best person for the job, I trust her unequivocally and to know that she is going to bring the same level of commitment that I do. I have forwarded the email from our board chair to show that our board is aware and approved of the measures.

Scott emphasized that we have several programs that have husband, wives or family members that are employed by the same nonprofit. All we require from a department standpoint is that they are required to fill out a conflict of interest form and state that from an agency standpoint and those items are attached to the agreement that's in the state system. And when they applied to JCPC as well so there is public record of it out there.

#### **Committee Reports:**

<b>State</b>	Risk & Needs data will come out in Sept. New member orientation session
<b>County</b>	N/A
<b>Marketing Committee</b>	N/A
<b>Monitoring Committee</b>	New chair Tomika Moore, doing virtual meeting options for the programs for monitoring, looking to do a personal visit exercising caution for a more informative reporting
<b>Risk &amp; Needs Committee</b>	N/A
<b>Funding Committee</b>	N/A
<b>Bi-Laws Committee</b>	N/A
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	N/A
<b>Program Support</b>	N/A

**Executive Committee** Meeting scheduled for September 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:30PM. Programs thank you all for adapting and being part of this, new normal and still serving young people as a school leader and working in CMS. This has been our first week of adapting to the various challenges. I know what you're going through and trying to figure out new things and teaching your staff new ways. So thank you for adapting that.

Kevin asked for a motion to adjourn, Kendra King made a motion to adjourn. Heather Taraska seconded. Meeting ended at 5:56pm.

*Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Swann*